



RealSense
Real Dollars For Real People.
WWW.JAXPROSPERITY.ORG

For Immediate Release:
February 13, 2008

Contact Information:
Kaye Schmitz, (904) 673-7249
or Priscilla Goudreau-Santos,
Media Contact, (904) 371-7751

RealSense Prosperity and County Extension Office partner for annual Jax Saves Week – a part of America Saves

Jacksonville, FL - The **RealSense Prosperity Campaign**, a locally based coalition of agencies, nonprofits and businesses working in partnership to improve the financial outlook for Northeast Florida citizens, is partnering with the **Duval County Extension Office** to encourage families and individuals to save during **Jax Saves Week Feb. 24 through March 1**. The annual, weeklong campaign is held in conjunction with the America Saves national campaign.

More than 50 organizations from all sectors of the community form the RealSense team that provides information about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), free income tax preparation for those who qualify, money-management and credit restoration education, and information about matched savings accounts (Individual Development Account or IDA) that encourage setting and attaining long-term goals.

The Duval County Extension Office will host the following classes and workshops to help people save during **Jax Saves Week**:

Money Smart class will be held at 6:30 p.m. Mon., Feb. 25 at Gateway Services located at 900 Bridier Street in Eastside, just north of the football stadium downtown. The topic will be credit bureaus and scores, and installment loans. Free.

Build Your Financial Future class will be held from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 27 at the County Extension Office at 1010 N. McDuff Ave. to encourage participants to open checking accounts even if they've had trouble opening them in the past. With knowledge gained during this class, you'll build a personal spending and savings plan. The cost is \$20 and the class is held monthly.

Investing For Your Future is a series of classes that begins Thurs., Feb. 28 and runs each Thursday through March 27 at the County Extension Office at 1010 N. McDuff Ave. Topics include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, retirement accounts and how to choose a financial advisor. There's a materials fee of \$15.

Effective Strategies for Family Finance Before You Tie the Knot is a class for engaged couples that begins at 9:30 a.m. on _____ at _____. Topics include _____. The cost is \$10 and the class is offered monthly. Couples who complete the class will receive \$20 to \$30 off the cost of their marriage license.

Dollar Decisions and Energy Conservation held in cooperation with the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) will be offered at noon on Sat., March 1 at the Main Library downtown, 303 N. Laura Street. Topics include budgeting and energy conservation and JEA will be giving away compact fluorescent light bulbs to all those who attend. Free.

“We also teach a class called ‘Get Checking’ that’s part of a national program taught locally for those who’ve been denied a checking account,” said **Anita McKinney, Extension Educator**. “There are many classes available under the umbrella of the Extension Office and RealSense Prosperity for those who want to know more about opening a checking account, managing and investing their money and saving for a brighter future.”

For more information on additional activities during **Jax Saves Week**, contact McKinney at 904-387-8850. And, for more information about America Saves, visit www.AmericaSaves.org.

The RealSense Prosperity campaign is a community-wide initiative led by United Way of Northeast Florida and funded by Bank of America, the City of Jacksonville, Family Foundations, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the National Disabilities Institute, Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, SunTrust Bank, United Way of Northeast Florida, United Way of St. Johns County, Wachovia Bank and Winn-Dixie.

###